

Preface

We are pleased to provide a substantially updated and revised second edition of *Family Law: Examples & Explanations*. Each of the 24 chapters features recent developments in the law and includes new examples and explanations, many of which are based on fact patterns found in actual cases. Because new developments in family law often reflect underlying societal changes in family structure and demographics, this volume incorporates empirical research and census data that are likely to be of interest to the reader. We also highlight ways that the practice of family law and the role of attorneys have been transformed through the use of processes such as mediation and collaborative law.

This book contains a balanced and in-depth analysis of family law. Because the tapestry of family law is complex, and because we believe that focus is an essential ingredient to learning, we have separated the subject of family law into specific topics that are organized as chapters. Each chapter is subdivided into discrete sections that often include hypothetical examples and illustrative explanations. Wherever possible, we have based our analysis and the examples and explanations on nationally accepted legal principles. However, because family law is so often state specific, the text contains contrasting perspectives from various jurisdictions. To eliminate confusion and to assist with family law research, we have included specific citations to relevant state decisions and legislation associated with the principles under consideration.

We believe that this book provides a clear, well-organized, and efficient learning platform that will assist readers in understanding and appreciating the subject of family law.

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